



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR

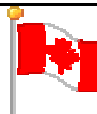
PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

September 2006 Volume 67 Number 7

club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



Hope You Had a Great Summer



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

See the HARC Web site at: <http://www.halifax-arc.org>

Our executive and committees.

Position Name & Call Sign	Phone #	E-Mail
President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
First V.P. - Rob Ewert, VE1KS	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
2nd V.P. - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Secretary - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	876-0661	twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca
Treasurer - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
Director-at-Large: - vacant		
Club Station Mgr. - Brian Allan, VE1AZV	489-4656	basailor@eastlink.ca
Past President - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

75th Anniversary Chair - Bob Swinwood, VE1PQ bob_swinwood@hotmail.com
Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau Manager - Bob Burns, VE1VCK 65-9414
ve1vck@rac.ca

EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP 466-8723 dgeorge@dal.ca

Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT 865-8567 ve1ent@rac.ca

Reflector Distribution - VACANT

Membership - VACANT

Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS, 826-1705 ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca

Basic ham course - Scott Wood, VE1QD 823-2761 ve1qd@rac.ca

EMO Trailer Assembly coord - David Musgrave, VE1EDA 435-4333 ve1eda@rac.ca

2007 Flea market Chair - NEEDED

Field Day coordinator - NEEDED

Safety Officer - Terry Bigelow ve1trb@rac.ca

RAC Asst Director - Wayne Marchand, VE1WJM, 860-1580 ve1wjm@rac.ca

RAC Atlantic Director - (acting) - Len Morgan, VE9MY

NSARA Director - Scott Wood, VE1QD 823-2761 ve1qd@rac.ca

Take-15 Net Controllers

NOTE: There have been some changes.

This will be the rotation. If you cannot take the net on your particular evening get in touch with one of the others and trade places with them. If I have left any one off the list, or you want to join, please let Bill, VE1MR, know.



Sept.	17	Win	VE1WIN
Sept.	24	Peter	VE1PJW
Oct.	1	Herb	VE1HX
Oct.	8	Doug	VE1LDL
Oct.	15	Dave	VE1EDA
Oct.	22	Charles	VE1MCR

The HARC Reflector is also available on the web (a little after the paper copy) courtesy of Rob Ewert, VE1KS, by connecting to www.halifax-arc.org

Deadline for submissions to the October Reflector is Saturday, Oct.7, 2006

Law of the Result: When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

The **General Monthly Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, September 20, 2006 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM), at the **HRM EOC in the Spicer Building**, Dartmouth. HRM EMO Coordinator Barry Manuel & John Weber, Manager of the Integrated Emergency Services (911) will make a presentation on the EOC operation and give a virtual tour of the 911 centre.
(We are too many for a physical tour during an evening; typically a busy time in the 911 Centre.)

The website for the NSARA has changed to

<http://users.eastlink.ca/~bdeathe/NSARA/>

Webmaster Eric Smith, VE1CFY, has posted photos of the 2006 NSARA picnic on the website; also the 2006 NSARA contest results.

Nets: EMO net Sundays, at 1930 hrs
Take 15 net Sundays, at 2030 hrs
Both on VE1PSR repeater; 147.27+

GENERAL INFORMATION



TAKE-15 NET: Sunday evenings at 8:30 PM on VE1PSR/VHF

CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1PSR/VHF - 147.270 MHz +
VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +
VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz -
access tone 151.4 Hz
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz -

PACKET:

VE1NSD 145.050 MHz LAN NODE
VE1BBS - Local packet BBS
accessible through the LAN

Events for Your Calendar

The schedule for the **Basic Radio Licensing Course** for the fall is on the HARC Website. It will run over a 14 week period. If you know of anyone who is interested in getting an amateur radio license, please have them get in touch with Scott, VE1QD

September – VHF/UHF Contest

October 21, 2006 – Greenwood ARC Flea Market

October – JOTA

December - Christmas party

Downeast Flea Market – The Halifax Forum has confirmed our reservation for May 12, 2007

In **2008** we'll celebrate the **Halifax Amateur Club's 75 years** of operation. What special project or activity would you like to suggest and/or be involved with?

Bob, VE1PQ, is chairing this celebration. Contact Bob to become part of the planning & execution.

RAC Atlantic Director Dave Goodwin recently gave up his RAC position because his job had relocated him to Ottawa. Those attending the 2006 DX Forum had a good chance to chat with acting RAC Atlantic Director Len Morgan, VE9MY. Len said he is planning to stand for election to the position of RAC Atlantic Director. *-ed.*

OPPORTUNITY**WANTED Manager & Storage for the HARC Tube Bank**

After 8 years of housing the HARC Tube Bank and overseeing its activities, Tom, VE1TA, (and Shirley) want to turn the Tube Bank over to a new manager/custodian. We have a good sized stock of tubes and while a fair amount of storage space is needed, Tube Bank activities should not take up much of your time. If you're interested please contact a member of the HARC executive.

Operators are required for the Halifax Harbour Day event

Sept.16 from 09:00 until 17:00

Sept.17 from 09:00 until 17:00

on board CSS ACADIA in the radio room. Please contact Brian via e-mail at basailor@eastlink.ca or by phone (cell) 902-489-4656

Greenwood ARC Fleamarket

Saturday, October 21, 2006

Greenwood Community Center

Church Street, Greenwood, NS

Opening times 08:00 for sellers

10:00 - 1:00 Public

Admission \$3.00 Sellers tables free

Talkin 147.240+

For more info contact Eric Smith,

VE1CFY velcfy@rac.ca

Or Brian DeAthe, VE1RCF,

velrcf@rac.ca

Web page is at

<http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/esmith/GARC>

OPPORTUNITY**WANTED HARC Membership Chair**

Tom (VE1GTC) has held this position for a number of years and he now wishes to devote his time and energy to other duties within the Club. If you are interested in taking over this important position, please let Bill, VE1MR know.

You can order a variety of **first aid kits** from St. John Ambulance. For mainland Nova Scotia phone 1-800-565-5056 or see their website www.stjohnambulance.ns.ca

If at first you don't succeed, don't take up sky diving!

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 27

The Midwest VHF/UHF Society will host **Microwave Update 2006** in **Dayton, Ohio**, October 19-22. Forum papers & presentations are invited. Contact Gerd Schrick, WB8IFM <wb8ifm@amsat.org> or 937-253-3993

Thursday — a surplus shop tour.; Friday night — the flea market Saturday evening will close the event with a banquet including door prizes and a presentation. There will be technical forums, an exhibit area for vendors plus a hospitality suite on Thursday & Friday evenings. Test equipment will be available for checking noise figures, amplifier gain, output power, phase noise & impedance. See web site <http://www.microwaveupdate.org/>

Labrador Castle Event:

On Sept 16, afternoon and into the eve, **Geocachers**, newly licensed and veteran Amateurs will hike in with their 2 meter QRP rigs to this Lunenburg County landmark. They will be testing their homebrew antennas and looking for contacts from all over Nova Scotia (and linking beyond). There are many activities planned and they will be continuously monitoring Chester 147.330 114*/115*. They will also be rag chewing on simplex 146.520. Join in the talk wherever you are and if you have your GPSr coordinates, share them. Anyone interested in attending the event can contact VE1AM at ken.kane@ns.sympatico.ca See the October Reflector for more on Geocaching.

73 Carolyn VE1FRG

2006 AMSAT Symposium

Project OSCAR is to host the 2006 AMSAT Symposium in the San Francisco Bay area October 6-8, 2006. ISS Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, will be the keynote speaker. Project OSCAR began building the first amateur satellites in the Bay Area.

The 2006 Space Symposium will be held jointly with the ARISS International and IARU Satellite Advisory Panel annual meetings and an AMSAT International Delegates meeting.

Additional information and Space Symposium online registration are available on the AMSAT Web site <<http://www.amsat.org>>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone enjoyed the summer vacation period. It was good to see so many out to the pizza nights at the club station. This year seems to be particularly busy where Amateur Radio is concerned with so many activities and events happening. The NSARA picnic and the Lunenburg steak and salmon supper made for a great weekend.

One event that clearly showed Amateur Radio operators at their best was the HARC Field Day this year. Thanks to Parks Canada we were able to use York Redoubt National Historic site, allowing us to bring in the big guns for our Field Day. Everyone agreed that it is an excellent site. As usual thanks are due, Barry Manuel, VE1JRG, HRM EMO co-ordinator for the use of the EMO trailer and tent; also the Halifax Regional Search and Rescue for the use of their command vehicle.

While Field Day is an emergency exercise, this year it seemed more so; when on picking up the gear to take to the Field Day site it was found a theft had occurred. Two antennas laid out to go to the site were missing, along with some other aluminium. Howard, VE1DHD as co-ordinator was disturbed and put the word out to get people to bring replacement antennas.

The ingenuity of Amateur Radio came to the fore and thanks to Dick, VE1AI, Sam, VE1YVN and Murray, VE1MMD appropriate antennas showed up at the site, were assembled tested and put up.

My compliments to the set up crew, things went very smoothly with few exceptions and we were lucky with the weather. Considering the amount of rainfall that weekend we had most things set up before the rain started and the rain stopped just before take down.

Take down was for several reasons perhaps a record. We had at least 30 people there and we were ready to clear the site 1 - ½ hours after the finish of operating.

The T&M restaurant was well attended. The food was good and plentiful and was available at very reasonable cost. Tom, VE1GTC and Murray, VE1MMD for a job well done even though they let masked bandits (racoons) run off with the bread one night. Everyone who was there Sunday morning enjoyed the pancake, egg and sausage breakfast - compliments to Lynn, VE1ENT for a fine meal.

Compliments are also in order for the safety crew under our new safety chair Terry, VE1TRB. While we have had safety people designated at Field Day in the past, this year their role was better defined and they took a more pro-active part in the event.

Thanks are also in order for those who were able to go back to the club station to help unload. The many people supporting set up and take down made the jobs seem easy.

Howard, VE1DHD did an excellent job of organizing and improvising when needed. He had people ready to load up at the club station, he had people delegated to oversee various tasks and the planning paid off in a very successful weekend.

The Field Day weekend exemplifies what Amateur Radio is all about; camaraderie, improvisation and club members helping each other. Thanks to all those who came out as well as those club members who were not able to attend but supported the effort in other ways.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

Field Day

As the name implies this event takes place in the field as an exercise in emergency preparedness. This year the importance of this was emphasized by the need to improvise. In the recent past ARRL instituted a new category, "F class" for operating from an established EOC. The club has a commitment to HRM EMO and we felt we could help fulfil this by operating in the 2F class from the HRM EOC. We began to alternate between the field and the HRM Emergency Operations Centre. With the enjoyment and challenges of operating from the field this year we feel we need to revisit this policy.

Perhaps to test operations at the EOC we could set up for a 24 hour contest there. This would allow more preparation time to set up, test cabling and antennas, which is one of the more important reasons for operating from there. During the contest the generator could be run for a prolonged time to test it out.

Think about this option. Other thoughts are welcome.

Thank you - Bill, VE1MR

Safety Corner September 2006

By Terry, VE1TRB

Emergency Contacts

There was an article in the Toronto Star, and a few other publications over the past few years regarding the ICE idea. This very simple idea is catching on as an important method of contact for you or a loved one in case of an emergency. As cell phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is program the number of a contact person or persons and store the name as "ICE" (In Case of Emergency).

A paramedic who found that when they went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn't know which numbers to call thought up the idea. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name to file "next of kin" under.

Following a disaster in London The East Anglican Ambulance Service has launched a national ICE campaign. The idea is that you store the word "ICE" in your mobile phone address book, and with it enter the number of the person you would want to be contacted "In Case of Emergency". In an emergency situation, Emergency Services personnel and hospital staff would then be able to quickly contact your next of kin, by simply dialing the number programmed under "ICE".

It really could save your life, or put a loved one's mind at rest. For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2, ICE3 etc.

Swimming Pool and Spa Chemicals

It's getting pretty close to that time of year to start thinking about closing down those back yard pools and spas that we've all enjoyed over the summer. One of the things we must think about is what to do with all the chemicals we have left over and want to store for next season. If you're not sure how to properly store the chemicals, phone a pool supply company, they'll be more than happy to explain things to you. Did you know it is illegal to dump water-containing chlorine into a water-course that may contain fish? Make sure the chlorine level is gone before you drain your pool.

REMEMBER SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

If you have any comments or questions that you would like to see addressed in this column, please feel free to send me an e-mail at ve1trb@rac.ca

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 30

First ARRL Online Auction Planned for October

Auction proceeds will help support the League's educational services and programs. ARRL Business Services Manager Deb Jahnke, K1DAJ. Jahnke and her Business Services team will organize and manage the event, planned for late October and she promises it will be lots of fun.

The auction will be open to all -- ARRL members and otherwise.

"We plan to include many unique and special items related to Amateur Radio," she said. "... items that will interest our audience, ranging from DXpedition vacation rentals to restored Collins 75A4s." This inaugural online auction is to be limited to 100 items.

The auction will run from Monday, October 23 through Friday, November 3. Individuals who wish to participate will need to register on-line approximately one week prior to the event. An update announcement will appear on the ARRL Web site when the ARRL On-Line Auction site "goes live."

NEW HAM RADIO OPERATORS!

During the late spring and early summer we experimented with a different approach to instructing individuals interested in obtaining their ham radio licenses. The so-called **Basic Radio Licensing Self-Study Group** operated without the benefit of a regular class. However, there was an initial orientation session, a study group chat network and opportunities for contact with an instructor via e-mail. It seems we have been successful.

We started out with 13 individuals and on July 27, seven (7) people successfully passed their basic exam with honours (80%), except one. That person missed by 2% or two questions! In addition, Frank Wilson, VE1FHW, passed his Advance License

Our new hams include:

Jim Campbell, VE1DXL
Jim Cyr, VE1CYR
Bruce Grainger, VE1BWG
Bruce Hollett, VE1KMLW
Dave Johnston, VE1DCJ
Don Mosher, VE1DRM
Brian Shaw, VE1BMS



We extend our warm congratulations to each of you.



There are still twelve (12) people from last year's course and the Self-Study Group who are in the process of preparing for the exam and who will write it in the next couple of months. Moreover, we are gearing up for, perhaps, as many as 15 new candidates for the 14 week Basic Amateur Radio Licensing Course that will start on 14 September.

If you know of anyone who is interested in joining the class, please have them look on the HARC website for details and/or contact me directly.

K. Scott Wood, VE1QD
Coordinator
Basic Radio Licensing Course
Tele: (902) 823-2761
E-mail: kswood@dal.ca

June 2006, **Museum Ships on the Air** in the Radio room of CSS Acadia, docked at the Museum of the Atlantic, Halifax, NS. We made over 400 contacts including six (6) of the participating ships during the event.

There was no such thing as a laptop PC when Acadia last sailed but she doesn't seem to object to ham operators occasionally using one in her radio room to log.



From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 26,
The ARRL DXCC Desk has inaugurated the "DXCC Dialog Weblog" containing news & notes about the ARRL DXCC program.
<http://www.arrl.org/blog/DXCC%20Dialog>

How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 28
Canadian Team Takes WRTC-2006 GOLD

Canadians John Sluymer, VE3EJ, & Jim Roberts, VE7ZO (ex-VE3IY), officially topped the 46-team field at World Radiosport Team Championship 2006 (WRTC-2006) in Brazil <<http://www.wrtc2006.org>> July 8-9. As PT5M they logged nearly 2.44 million points to take home the gold. US teams took the silver (with nearly 2.32 million points) and bronze (with almost 2.1 million points) medals. Taking 4th spot with some 2.02 million points was the Ukrainian team. 5th was the PT5D team of Italy who racked up nearly 1.99 million points.

The appearance in their log of a large number of what officials are calling "phantom QSOs" took the Serbia-Montenegro team out of medal contention.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 29 July 21, 2006

Radio Amateurs of Canada is seeking input from the Amateur Radio community on possible future restructuring of the Amateur Radio Service, possibly by easing entry-level licensing requirements as other countries have done. The Committee on the Restructuring of Amateur Radio in Canada, chaired by RAC Midwest Director Bj. Maden, VE5FX, has designed a questionnaire to gather information from Canadian amateurs about their thoughts on the future of the service. "Your input to this questionnaire is critical to help the committee to determine the direction which Amateur Radio might take," the RAC says. The survey takes about 10 minutes. Canadian radio amateurs can visit the RAC Web site's "Restructuring in Canada" page <<http://www.rac.ca/regulatory/restructuring.htm>>, which includes a link to the survey and to an article on restructuring that appeared in the May/June issue of The Canadian Amateur. There's also a PowerPoint presentation, including presenter's notes, for club programs.

**Halifax Amateur Radio Club
Minutes - Monthly General
Meeting
Wednesday, June 21, 2006**

President Bill (VE1MR) called the meeting to order at 1931 with 35 members and guests in attendance.

Silent Keys: There were two silent keys to report:

Murray Helpard (VE1OI) of
Stewiacke, N.S.
Dick Hall (VY2RD) of
Montague, PEI.

Guests/Visitors. N1VBT – John Van Schalkwyk

Executive in attendance:

Bill Elliott (VE1MR) President;
Rob Ewert (VE1KS) 1st. Vice President;
Howard Dickson (VE1DHD) 2nd Vice President;
Murray Mac Donald (VE1MMD) Secretary;
Fraser Mac Dougall (VE1WO) Treasurer were present.

Minutes of the May 17, 2006 monthly general meeting: It was moved by Doug (VE1LDL) and seconded by Peter (VE1PJW) that the minutes of the May 17, 2006 meeting, as printed in the June edition of the Reflector, be adopted.
Motion was carried.

Executive Reports:

Treasurer's report: Fraser (VE1WO) reported that the current bank balance was \$12,012.52. Expenses for the month were \$496.73; income was \$2,253.24. It was moved by Bruce Hollett and seconded by John (VE1HMH) that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Motion was carried.

Secretary's report: Murray (VE1MMD) reported that he had received the final financial report on the 2006 Down East Flea Market. As a result of the team effort put forward by the committee members and the volunteers, each club received a profit of \$450.00. The 2007 edition

of the flea market is scheduled for May 12th at the Halifax Forum Complex. The club is seeking a chair for the 2007 flea market and if anyone is interested, please notify the president. Murray thanked the committee members, volunteers and participants for helping to make the flea market a success.

Murray advised that the Sunday, June 18th edition of the Halifax Herald carried an article on Merle Taylor (VE1VCI) of Lochaber, her involvement with amateur radio and her recent involvement with the NSARA contest – she won!

Murray reported that he had made contact with the Halifax Regional Library system and as a result fourteen (14) copies of Ed Hammond's book have been donated to the library by the HARC. These books will be distributed to the various libraries in the system. In addition, the library staff has been provided with a recommended list of current amateur radio books for purchase by the library system.

President's report: Bill (VE1MR) advised that the liability insurance carried by the club has been increased from \$2 million to \$3 million dollars. As a result of this increase, we now meet the insurance level required by CBC for our repeater installation on Geezers Hill. CBC and Park's Canada have been named as co-insurers. The cost of this increase in coverage is \$75.00.

1st. Vice President's report: Rob (VE1KS) reported that VE1KEJ was up and running. (147.195+). He also reported that a number of repeaters in the area have been experiencing problems as a result of testing by the new FM stations. Bill (VE1MR) will be forwarding a letter to Industry Canada advising them of these problems.

2nd. Vice President's report: Howard (VE1DHD) advised that the door prize for the evening draw was a 25 foot measuring tape. The entertainment for the evening will be a review of field day preparations.

Station Manager's report: Brian (VE1AZV) reported that one laptop computer is missing from the station. If anyone knows the whereabouts of the computer, please let Brian know.

Brian advised that a leak had occurred on the roof at the site of the vertical antenna and drain pipe. The antenna has been taken down and there was no damage to the station. The roof, however, is reported as being very soft.

Brian reported that the Museum Ships weekend event was a success with over 400 contacts made including six (6) of the participating ships.

Member at Large: Nothing to report.

Past President: Nothing to report.

Committee reports:

Membership: Tom (VE1GTC) reported that there are currently 143 members. Tom advised that Wayne (VE1WPH) had agreed to take on the duties of membership chair effective immediately.

Search and Rescue: Dave (VE1AJP) reported that they had been experiencing problems with the handhelds. Once the existing batteries had been removed and replaced with those from a different manufacturer, the problems disappeared and the radios are working well.

EMO: Nothing to report.

Field Day: Howard (VE1DHD) reported the entertainment for the June meeting will be a review of field day.

DX Forum: Scott (VE1QD) reported that things are moving ahead. The date for this year's event is Saturday, August 5th and will be held at the Community Centre in Tantallon. A number of notables in the DX field have been contacted and have confirmed their attendance. Further information will be forthcoming.

Course: Scott (VE1QD) reported that he is beginning to receive inquiries concerning the exam.

Old Business:

There was no old business to report.

Money can't buy happiness -- but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Porsche than in a Hyundai.

(Continued on page 7)

HARC Minutes - Monthly General Meeting – Wednesday, May 17/06
(Continued from page 6)

New Business:

First Aid Kits: Terry (VE1TRB) reported that Emil (VE1ESP) had checked out the current first aid kits owned by the club. It is quite evident that they are not up to requirements and need to be replaced. It was moved by Terry (VE1TRB), and seconded by Jim (VE1JIM) that the required kits be purchased. The motion was approved.

High angle rescue kit. The president left the chair and was replaced by the Vice President during discussion on this matter. Following discussion on the requirement for the club to have adequate high angle rescue equipment, it was moved by Bill (VE1MR) and seconded by John (VE1HMH) that the club purchase a high angle rescue kit not to exceed \$200.00. The motion was approved. The kit will consist of 350' of 5/8" poly strand rope, two (2) blocks and one (1) thimble. Following approval of the motion, the president resumed the chair.

75th Anniversary: Bob (VE1PQ) addressed the meeting and emphasized the need to get the planning for the 75th anniversary started. It was moved by Doug (VE1LDL) and seconded by Peter (VE1PJW) that Bob (VE1PQ) be appointed general chair to oversee the preparations and planning for the 75th anniversary. The motion was carried.

Announcements:

50/50: The 50/50 draw in the amount of \$19.00 was won by Brian (VE1AZV)



Door Prize: The measuring tape was won by Tom (VE1GFC).

It was moved by John (VE1HMH) that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 2039.

Respectfully submitted,
Murray Mac Donald, VE1MMD
Secretary, Halifax Amateur Radio Club

Brown's Law: If the shoe fits, it's ugly

The VE1KEJ Solar Powered Repeater is On The Air on 147.195+ MHz

Members of the HARC and the QCARC spent a busy Saturday, May 27, at the Kejimikujik National Park fire tower. The plan was to install as much of the equipment needed for the new solar-powered repeater as possible. As the fire tower is too many kilometers down an old logging road to count on timely "outside" rescue should someone on the tower become incapacitated, HARC safety officer, Terry, VE1TRB, was justifiably concerned about "high angle" rescue of a disabled or unconscious climber. We had been counting on the presence of a volunteer who is practised and equipped to accomplish "high angle rescue" but on May 23 he told us he would not be available after all. This gave us just enough time to look up current rescue equipment specifications and acquire gear compatible with the current standard. (Mind you, it's nice to know you have your own gear, and the care of it.)

5 climbers with up to date "fall arrest" training/certification and proper climbing equipment came out to do their part. Prior to the first ascent, Terry & Pat performed a demonstration/practice rescue to familiarise all present with how a rescue could be performed at this site and the necessary functions of the 2nd tower man and of those on the ground.

The rescue objective is to get the person who needs rescue safely to the ground within 15 minutes.

It was also verified that a first aid kit was on hand and Scott, VE1SLH, who has first aid training,

(continued on page 9)



Terry VE1TRB, hangs from his harness and fall arrest straps while Pat, VE1PHK, positions the high angle rescue gear



Terry is now supported only by the rescue block & tackle. Pat's fall arrest straps are secured to the tower



Ground crew lowers the "casualty" to the ground

From the Mail Bag



Does anyone remember the radio call sign of the Army Signal Station Leitrim outside Ottawa. We believe it was VDC but I have no way to confirm this. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Spud, VE1BC

Have you read the article "The Future of Amateur Radio? by WB8SIW" in the Autumn 2006 issue of SKY-HOOK? Skyhook_Autumn_2006.pdf

This article starts on page 3 and is the best I have ever read. For years and especially when Dan VE1JV and I were teaching Amateur Radio I have felt three things should be taught kids in school. Typing because everything is rotating around that today. How to properly handle a motor vehicle although I am damned if I know what one could do with those that fail since so much of our world rotates around the sale and maintenance of vehicles. The third is CW simply because it is so easy to communicate and has saved so many lives. One can send CW with a machine gun. Show me how you could modulate that and communicate with it. Etc.

I hope you enjoy this article as much as I have.

73 Spud VE1BC

Skywide Amateur Radio Club was organized in 1951 in the area of West Toronto. The call VE3DRT was assigned to their station. Today their quarterly newsletter is the SKYHOOK. -ed.

First VE1 Ham License

On behalf of the Odtimers Club I have been trying for some time to find out when the first VE1 license was issued, to whom it was issued and what the callsign was. Both RAC and Industry Canada have told me they have no records of this. Can anyone help with correct info and verify that it is correct. It would be a great help to us. Thanks.

73, Gerry, VE1AAC g.d.harris@ns.sympatico.ca

Tom Roscoe K8CX put this on his site.

<http://hamgallery.com/qs1/country/Canada/ve1bc.htm>
Hopefully it will get a little publicity for the club.

Spud, VE1BC

The AMSAT-NA Web site is <http://www.amsat.org>

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 26 Montenegro on Current DXCC List

The United Nations admitted the Republic of Montenegro as its 192nd member June 28. That action automatically makes the tiny Balkan nation the 336th current DXCC entity effective June 28/06 (UTC).

The Daily DX <<http://www.dailydx.com>> this week quoted Ranko Boca, YT6A, that current Montenegrin radio amateurs may use their current Serbia-Montenegro call signs until the ITU designates a call sign block for the new country.

Good morning HARC Members:

I am pleased to report that the Halifax ARC has once again had an extremely successful ARRL **Field Day**.

In spite of a very wet weekend at York Redoubt, we estimate that close to 50 individuals contributed - in one way or another - over the weekend to the success of this event.

York Redoubt turned out to be an excellent venue for Field Day. There was plenty of room to set up, wash-rooms were available for our use, and Parks Canada was more than happy to see us use the site in this way.

While it would be too difficult to identify each and every individual contribution, I do want to thank Murray (VE1MMD), Tom (VE1GTC) and Lynn (VE1ENT) for their outstanding job at providing, under less than optimal conditions, the comfort food that kept everyone content over this wet weekend. Also to Scott (VE1QD) for the great job he did as the GOTA station "Coach" and in ensuring that we exposed a number of new people to amateur radio over the weekend.

Now, the part that everyone has been waiting for.....our score!

Score Summary:

	CW	Phone	Total
Total QSOs	981	1185	
Total Pts	1962	1185	3147 x 2 for a
TOTAL Claimed Score of 6,294 + 1,450 Bonus Points			
GRAND TOTAL = 7,744			

Thanks once again to EVERYONE who made Field Day 2006 a great success!

Howard, VE1DHD, Field Day Chair 2006

Tech Support A woman customer called the Canon help desk with a problem with her printer.

Tech support: "Are you running it under windows?"

Customer: "No, my desk is next to the door, but that is a good point. The man sitting in the cubicle next to me is under a window, and his printer is working fine."



From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 35, Sept. 1, 2006

It's the thinking of some scientists that the recent appearance on the sun of 2 so-called "backward sunspots" may mean solar Cycle 23 is drawing to a close and Cycle 24 now is under way or soon will be. "A backward sunspot is a sign that the next solar cycle is beginning." The term "backward" refers to the sunspots' magnetic polarity. The significance of the sunspot which appeared briefly July 31 is that its magnetic polarity was the opposite of current Cycle 23 spots.

VE1KEJ Repeater (Continued from page 7)
was designated as prime for first aid.

Earlier in the week the new building
had arrived (by truck) and been set in



Assembling
the solar
panel array



More than a dozen
ground crew raised
the solar array
about 35 feet up
the tower to
the
climbers



Climbers Shane,
VE1SMC, Phil,
VE1PB, and
Pierre, VE1PTR
fastened the solar
panels to the
tower

place. While small, it's big enough for the job, and has the advantage of being steel (painted grey) with a door that seals well. It will be harder for ants and snakes to get into as well as more resistant to damage by bear claws and humans than the existing Park repeater's wooden shed. And it had been a railway building so, considering the role the railway played in forming Canada, I doubt we could have found a more appropriate structure to be used in a National Park.

Late Friday afternoon the first volunteers arrived at the fire tower site with tools & equipment and set to work installing the rack cabinet frame and the battery rack in the new building. Saturday more people and gear arrived and the pace increased. The batteries and charging equipment to interface with the solar panel assemblies were put in place. Cans, radios, fuses & fuse panel and the controller were installed, some DC wiring was done, some cables were run into the



Wayne, VE1WPH, & Howie,
VE1FV, screened & sealed the new
building's roof vent.

building and Al, the Parks tech, moved the existing park repeater equipment to its new location.

Five climbers worked in 2 teams. Terry, VE1TRB, & Pat, VE1PHK, climbed to the top of the tower and mounted the mast and antenna there. The ground crew assembled the solar panel array and hoisted it up to Phil, VE1PB, Shane, VE1SMC, & Pierre, VE1PTR, who fastened it in place.

We left early enough to get out of the Park before dark, intending to return the next weekend to finish the job. Rain forced postponement til Sunday, June 11, when a group of 11 finished most of the remaining work.

Phil, VE1PB, & Gary, VE1RGB,

finished the installation and wiring of the solar panels on the tower. Meanwhile wiring, testing, insulating, wasp/snake/ant-proofing-etc. proceeded at ground level.

The first (and

(continued on page 10)



Phil, VE1PB & Gary, VE1RGB,
securing the solar panels

VE1KEJ Repeater is On The Air

(Continued from page 9)

so highly satisfying) transmission through VE1KEJ was between Bill, VE1MR and Bill VA1BC.

With that achievement, we packed up, locked up, and drove away from the fire tower at about 8:30PM.

We were part way down the fire tower road when Murphy struck. While the repeater would still respond correctly to touch tone codes it would no longer pass audio and the keys to open the building were not accessible that evening; even if going back had been an option. The nagging questions were "What's failed and what gear will be needed to find and fix the problem?"

On Wednesday, Howie, VE1FV, & Bob, VE1AOI, trekked in to the fire tower and almost immediately discovered a connector that had been knocked askew. Howie, being an "old telephone man" was quick to recognize and correct this "open wire trouble" and **THE VE1KEJ REPEATER was ON THE AIR!**

Thanks to everyone who planned, negotiated, prepared, worked, contributed and otherwise supported & co-operated on the Keji repeater project. You are too many to name; the success is yours. -ed.

And then ... Early Sunday morning, July 16, Rob, VE1KS and Howie, VE1FV, went to the Keji repeater site where they installed & commissioned the link radio (UHF) which allows VE1KEJ to connect into the MAVCOM system and IRLP. The codes are

152* ON 153* OFF

P.S. Rob has posted more pictures at <http://www.nsexplore.ca/harc/>

TEACHER: Tommy, why do you always get so dirty?

TOMMY: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

FOR SALE

The following gear has been donated to the Brit Fader Scholarship Trust and is for sale. The gear is in good condition, but has been stored for several years and most is not currently checked out. Some is new, never used. There is more gear including a self supporting tower, HF beam and VHF/UHF satellite beams that we hope to advertise next month. The prices are generally negotiable and are based on a percentage of new replacement price, condition and age. The following prices are guide lines for bids. Bids of reasonable offers will be considered and will be accepted until 6 PM September 20, 2006.

ICOM - 751 C/W MANUALS (SERVICE AND INSTRUCTION).....With:
RC-10 FREQUENCY CONTROLLER (MANUAL), PHONE PATCH (NO
MODEL #), SM-8 DESK MIKE, HM-9 HAND MIKE, FL-52A - CW FILTER
and FL-53A - CW CRYSTAL FILTER..... \$700
ASTRON RS-20A POWER SUPPLY - 20 AMP..... \$125

All Mirage gear complete with manual.

MIRAGE - B-1016 AMP - 2 METER, 10W in - 160 W out..... \$250
MIRAGE - A-1015 AMP - (50-52), 10 IN / 150 OUT.....\$200
MIRAGE - B-23A AMP - 2 METER, 4 W IN -30 WATT OUT..... \$ 75
MIRAGE - MP-1 HF WATTMETER..... \$200

MICROWAVE MODULES LTD. TRANSVERTERS C/W MANUALS

MMT 432/28..... \$250
MMT 28/144..... \$250
MMT 50/144..... \$250
MML - 432/100 AMP - 10W IN/100 WATT OUT..... \$250
MMC 144/28LO converter..... \$200
4 - 600 MHz - 10 PRESCALERS..... \$???
3 - CX-520-D..... \$ 85 ea.

Ham IV ROTOR/CONTROL BOX/ SOME CABLE..... \$350
T2X - ROTOR/CONTROL BOX/(MANUAL)/some cable..... \$500
CD-45-11 ROTOR/CONTROL BOX/(MANUAL)..... \$200
MFJ VERSA TUNER 11 - MFJ-941D (MANUAL)..... \$100
MFJ SWR METER - VHF - MFJ-812..... \$ 35

HEATH - 1G-1275 FUNCTION GENERATOR.....\$ 60
HEATH - HD-1250 SOLID STATE DIP METER..... \$ 40
HEATH - HM-102 SWR METER..... \$ 35
HEATH - IM4190 Bidirectional wattmeter 100 to 1000 MHz..... \$ 50
- Kit partially assembled - not working from new

Dentron MLA-2500 - 160M-10M amplifier..... \$1200
1 Yaesu hand mike (no part no.)..... \$ 20
2M 1/4 wave mag mount antenna..... \$ 15
2M 5/8 wave Cushcraft mag mount antenna..... \$ 50
1 - Delhi BBMB bearing..... \$ 20
1R.S.O. low pass filter..... \$20
2 Micronta desk clocks 12-24 hour (63-753a).....\$10 ea

To place bids contact: Fraser MacDougall, VE1WO: email: ve1wo@rac.ca
Phone: 865-4198

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, #26

New IRC: The Universal Postal Union (UPU) has announced that a **new International Reply Coupon (IRC) design** <<http://www.dailydx.com/2007irc.jpg>> has been selected. The new IRC will be valid until Dec.31/09. The current IRC is valid through Dec.31/06. For more on IRCs, see the June 1999 issue of QST (pg.83). The Daily DX <<http://www.dailydx.com>>